

### 3.2 Expansion of Network – 34 CFR 364.25

Describe the design for the further expansion of the network, including identification of the unserved and underserved areas in the State and the order of priority for serving these areas as additional funding becomes available (beyond the required cost-of-living increase).

~~The SILC is committed to supporting the CILs in their growth without demanding they establish branch offices before the financial resources are available to maintain their main offices effectively. The SILC, the DSU and the CILs jointly established a base funding level of \$650,000 per year per CIL.~~

- ~~1. Our plan does not include a priority for establishing new CILs. We believe that we can offer the necessary IL services to citizens with disabilities using the four main CILs and their identified branch offices as funding allows.~~
- ~~2. The CILs were awarded \$800,000 from the 2013 Legislative session for the upcoming biennium to expand services to citizens with disabilities within North Dakota. The distribution of funding will follow the same logic design as past increases where the lowest funded Center will receive step increases with the end goal being all Centers within the State being at par or as close to par as possible. Where funding increases are greater than \$50,000.00 a year, each Center will consider opening an additional outreach office if financially feasible.~~
- ~~3. The SILC uses the SPIL as a basis for establishing priorities. It identifies needs based on consumer satisfaction as well as on information gathered at open forum meetings. Census data is consulted as well as information shared by VR and other agencies that work with people with disabilities statewide.~~

Increases in funding for Independent Living services in ND will be distributed utilizing the following methodologies.

COLAs will be distributed based on Regulatory Mandates. Additional increases above COLA but below the level required to establish a new CIL, should be distributed based on the following considerations:

1. If the CILs experience a decrease in funding due to reductions in the state's allocation of Part C funds during prior year(s), the first priority is to use additional Part C funds to bring the CILs as close as possible to their funding levels prior to the reduction, by distributing additional above-COLA Part C funds proportionally based on each CIL's percentage share of its reduction until the CILs reach their pre-reduction levels and/or until the increase in funding above COLA has been distributed in totality. For example, due to the sequestration in 2013, the CILs experienced an aggregate reduction of \$44,849 in Part C funds for October 1, 2013 - September 30, 2014. The CILs' shares of this reduction were as follows: Dakota-48%; Freedom-22%; Independence-15% and Options 15%. Accordingly, Part C funding for October 1, 2014 - September 30, 2015 would be distributed to the CILs in the same percentages (Dakota-48%; Freedom-22%; Independence-15% and Options 15%).
2. When all the CILs reach their Part C funding levels prior to the reduction, additional Part C funding above COLA will be distributed proportionally in such a manner that all CILs will receive distributions of funds with the end goal being that all Centers within the State will have the same,

or as close to the same, funding level as possible. For example: This priority would bring all four CIL's currently serving the State up to a base level of \$650,000, considering a combination of State IL, Federal Part B, and Title VII Part C dollars. In order to accomplish this goal, a portion of any new IL funding sufficient to bring the lowest funded Center (Independence) up to the level of the next highest funded Center (Options) shall be distributed first. Once Independence is funded at an equal level to Options, a portion of any new IL funding sufficient to bringing Independence and Options up to the funding level equal to Freedom will be distributed next. Once Independence and Options are funded at an equal levels to Freedom, a portion of any new IL funding sufficient to bringing Independence, Options and Freedom up to the funding level equal to Dakota shall be distributed next. Should any additional new funding remain, it shall be divided equally among the four Centers until all Centers reach \$650,000.

3. When all CIL's reach the minimum base funding level of \$650,000, from any combination of State IL, Federal Part B, and Title VII Part C dollars, the minimum annual funding level for establishing a new center in an area not currently served by an existing Part C center would be \$350,000. Should additional Part C funding become available beyond the required cost-of-living increase, but less than \$350,000, it would be distributed to the current Part C CILs in ND considering geography and population using the most current Census data. Currently, this distribution would be made using the following percentages:

CIL	Population, 2010		Land area in square miles, 2010		Average % of Population & Square Miles
Dakota	180,760	26.88%	24,012	34.80%	30.84%
Freedom	221,778	32.97%	12,880	18.67%	25.82%
Independence	134,733	20.03%	17,382	25.19%	22.61%
Options	135,320	20.12%	14,727	21.34%	20.73%
SubTotals	672,591	100.00%	69,001	100.00%	100.00%